



THE NOE VALLEY VOICE

History Day Summons Up Noe Nostalgia

By Lurry Beresford

Would you like to discover some "History in Your Own Back Yard"? That's the theme of the Noe Valley History Day Celebration, to be hosted by the Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey St., on Saturday, April 22.

The event will feature a walking tour of neighborhood Victorians, a screening of archival films, special children's programs, and an exhibit of old photographs from the Noe Valley Archives.

Although the library has held several history celebrations over the past decade, this will be its first History Day since 1982. The impetus for the event came primarily from neighborhood history buffs Paul Kantus and Miriam Blaustein, and fellow members of the East & West of Castro Street Improvement Club and the Friends of Noe Valley. But branch librarians Roherta Greifer and Debby Jeffery have chipped in to organize a full

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Here stands the original James Lick School and its staff and students as they looked in the 1890s. Such moments will be celebrated on April 22, Noe Valley History Day at the branch library, 451 Jersey St. PHOTO COURTESY OF THE GREG GARR COLLECTION, NOE VALLEY ARCHIVES

Recycling Gets a Push from Local Ecology Center

By Grave D'Anca

About 10 years ago, many of us launched into recycling with unbridled enthusiasm. We carefully separated those bottles and cans, and dutifully schlepped them to the recycling center on our one precious day off.

But the thrill of social responsibility—especially when it entails hearing the constant collision of glass bottles on the floor in the back seat of the car—can fade fast. Nowadays, life is so hectic, it may be all we can do to bag up the newspapers for the garbage collector.

Are you too a lapsed recycler? Well,

don't waste another second feeling guilty. Get your cans and bottles curbside, quick.

The Green Future/Green Party Ecology Center, newly established in Noe Valley, will pick up recyclables—aluminum cans, bottles separated ac-

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Planning Commission Frowns Upon Cafe Comedy

By Jeff Kaliss

Late last month, the city Planning Commission brought the curtain down on the Courtyard Cafe's attempt to host a branch of the Holy City Zoo comedy club. But the controversy over live entertainment in Noe Valley is an ongoing show, involving a colorful cast of bar and cafe owners, comedy promoters, bureaucrats, and neighborhood activists.

The controversy made for a lively meeting of the Friends of Noe Valley March 9 at the public library on Jersey Street.

John Stalp, chair of the Friends' planning committee, served as moderator of the debate on the Courtyard Cafe's proposal to stage weekend comedy shows at its 3913 24th St. site, to be produced by the owners of Clement Street's Holy City Zoo.

According to an informal poll of 20 percent of the Friends membership, Stalp said, 50 percent of those polled supported the establishment of a 24th Street Zoo, 37 percent opposed the idea, and 13 percent would accept a club with restrictions on its operation.

Stalp's committee drew up its own list of recommended restrictions, which included holding the audience to a 50-seat maximum, correcting any current zoning violations in the building, installing soundproofing if needed, and limiting

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Local members of the Green Future/Green Party Ecology Center (from left) Ken Dickinson, Kim Brown, and Tery Gelhus are ready to recycle cans, bottles, and newspapers that residents leave by the curb one Sunday a month. Not visible in this shot of a recent 23rd Street pickup is Blanch Cabanillas, who was driving the truck loaned by the Bernal Recycling Center. PHOTO BY CHARLES KENNARD

P O E M

OLD WOMAN
OF MISSION STREET

By A.D. Winans

She is fat
She is old
She is funny
in her baggy clothes
torn stockings and old
handbag

She is wrinkled
and carries the smell
of death in her nostrils

But her eyes are quick
like a bird
and cats follow her
purring and rubbing
against her

And children smile
And flowers grow in
Her hair

A.D. Winans is best known locally for his
North Beach Poems (1977) and The
Reagan Psalms (1984), but his work has
also appeared internationally. He's lived
in the Noe Valley area since 1965.

Neighbors Nix Noe Night Life

Continued from Page 1

shows to Thursday, Friday, and Saturday evenings before 11 p.m.

Fred Methner, secretary of the East & West of Castro Street Improvement Club, told the Friends that his own organization considered similar restrictions during its February meeting, but ended up voting against any form of live entertainment. In a prepared statement, Methner declared, "We have fought constantly against live music or live entertainment in present bars or restaurants when neighbors on Jersey or Elizabeth streets were opposed... because of the noise late at night, and because of the problem of parking."

Methner also pooh-poohed the promises of Courtyard Cafe owner Davood Mozaffari and Holy City Zoo co-owner Boh Fisher that they would run the comedy nights with strict attention to the neighbors' wishes.

"The rules and regulations which Courtyard Cafe has put up don't mean a thing," claimed Methner. "They are unenforceable, and residents can't be phoning the Mission Police Station all the time. The police have more important things to do."

Although some of the assembled Friends shared Methner's mood, others, including co-president Jacques Bertrand, were eager to enlighten the neighborhood's night life.

"We need to figure out how to deal with change and influence our neighborhood's livability in a positive sense," said Bertrand. "I believe that we need alternative businesses [like a comedy club] that are not capital-intensive."

In keeping with their divided membership, however, the Friends voted to stand behind their planning committee's recommended restrictions, rather than to wholeheartedly support or oppose the Zoo.

But two weeks later, at a March 23 hearing of the Planning Commission at City Hall, the opposition prevailed.

Mozaffari tried to impress the commissioners with a petition containing 427 signatures of Courtyard Cafe customers who wanted comedy, and he claimed that over two-thirds of those Zoo supporters

lived in the neighborhood.

Fisher reported that a sound engineer had assured him that amplified comedians would not project more than 10 feet beyond the cafe, and he downplayed the parking problem, saying, "At night, 24th Street is virtually a ghost town."

The only other testimony in support of comedy nights came from an Elizabeth Street resident and from Vince Hogan, co-owner of the Duhliner and the Bailey bars, who himself hopes to initiate entertainment at the Bailey, at the corner of Church and 25th.

As the hearing dragged on into the late evening hours, three members of Friends, nine nearby neighbors, and Methner all stood up to express their concerns about noise, parking, and neighborhood character, resorting in the process to attacks on Fisher's character and false claims that the comedy promoter had advertised the new club in the *Voice* and the *Bay Guardian*.

Zoning administrator Robert Passmore advised the commission that "technically, I think [the Zoo] would work, but we don't have the staff to make sure that it does work."

Several commissioners likewise expressed sympathy with the proposed operation, but they wound up voting 6-0 against granting a conditional use permit to Mozaffari.

Commission Vice President James Morales, who chaired the hearing, said, "I don't think the project sponsor has shown that it won't be a burden," adding, "I don't think it will be neighborhood-serving."

The Zoo story was carefully observed by bar owner Hogan, whose plans to feature live acoustic Irish music, jazz and comedy at the Bailey actually predated Fisher's and Mozaffari's plans by several months. Hogan gained some notoriety in the pages of *Image* magazine in February, where he accused Methner of "racism" for alleged anti-Irish remarks made during Methner's opposition to the Bailey's own application for an entertainment permit.

The police have already granted the permit, but the matter was sent to the

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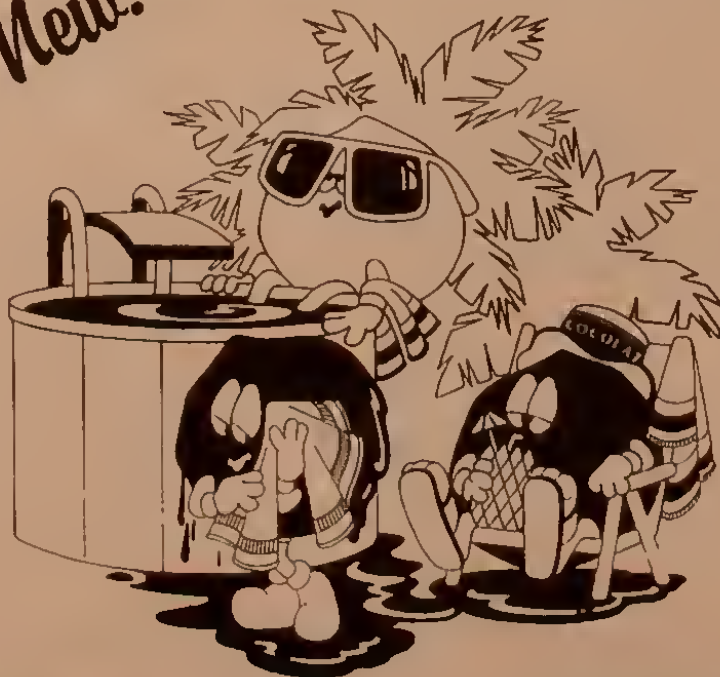
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Howdy, Partner Want to Buy a House?

*Friends Pool Resources
to Become
Noe Home Owners*

By Mark Robinson

In the late spring of 1986, Katharine Harer thought she would never be a homeowner. She shared a one-bedroom apartment on 20th Street in the Mission District with her husband, Vern, and their 1-year-old son, Leo.

It was cramped, but the couple—one a school teacher, the other a writer and arts administrator—put up with it. They liked the city.

"We had this idea that we'd save up and buy a cabin in the mountains and keep our apartment in the city, but that's about as far as it went," said Harer, sitting on the floor of the family's comfortable Noe Valley flat one recent Sunday afternoon.

But a breakfast with friends Lita Blanc, also a teacher, and her husband Alan Benjamin, a journalist, changed all that. The conversation turned to small apartments and tiny closets. Then they latched onto an idea they had kicked around before but never taken seriously. Why not buy property together?

Buying in partnership, real estate brokers say, is one way to beat inflation and step onto the bottom rung of the home-owning ladder. According to the California Association of Realtors, in the

San Francisco housing market fewer than 10 percent of households earn enough money to afford the median-priced home. Would-be buyers—especially those looking at "prime" neighborhoods such as our own increasingly pricey Noe Valley—must search for creative ways to break into the market.

The partner approach is gaining popularity in Noe Valley, where a single-family, two-bedroom house for under \$300,000 is now considered a steal (see "The High Cost of Homesteading in Noe Valley," February 1989 *Voice*).

"It's almost a requirement for people who want to live in certain areas, like Noe Valley, for instance," said veteran real estate broker Ian Berke.

Fortunately, the relatively high proportion of multi-flat buildings in this neighborhood makes finding a suitable property feasible. (Although in the Haight-Ashbury District, noted Berke, large multi-unit flats outnumber those in Noe Valley by three or four to one.)

Partnerships can make ownership almost affordable, as Harer and her partners learned after they found a two-flat building on 25th Street in the summer of 1986. By pooling their resources and borrowing money from their families, the couples managed to scrape together enough to make the down payment on the pair of turn-of-the-century railroad flats.

When the financial dust settled, their mortgage payments weren't much higher than the rents they were used to paying. "And if you factor in taxes and appreciation, we're saving," said Harer's husband, Vern Maxam.

"None of us had ever owned any property before," noted Harer, who is 39. "It's definitely the only way we could have done it," added Maxam, 40.

Although buying in partnership can make owning easier, it's still not cheap. Since the Harers swung their deal three years ago, real estate prices have jumped 50 percent, according to the San Francisco Board of Realtors.



Two families who were close friends got together to buy this two-flat building at 25th and Noe streets. The co-owners seen here are (from left) Alan Benjamin with sons Jacob and Eric, and Katherine Harer and Vern Maxam with son Leo. PHOTO BY PAMELA GERARD

These days, a couple who can spend \$250,000 on a house "couldn't buy a garage in Noe Valley," said Berke. But two such couples, he added, could find "a fine pair of flats for \$500,000."

Still, the purchase would require at least a 20 percent down payment, or

\$50,000 cash from each couple. That would leave monthly payments of \$2,000 for each flat. The qualifying annual income for such a deal, Berke calculated, would be \$65,000 to \$70,000 a year per

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A Home-Owning Partnership Is Almost Like a Marriage

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household.

Does this mean that the person or family making \$35,000 to \$40,000 should just forget trying to buy a house in Noe Valley—even in partnership?

"It's not impossible," says Ginger Karels, a real estate agent at Zephyr Realty on 24th Street, "but it's also not easy."

Karels encourages people to persist if "you definitely see your future as being in San Francisco." She suggests that those who don't qualify for loans explore the option of finding a silent partner.

Or, if buyers can come up with a larger-than-average down payment, then they can apply for smaller loans—and negotiate smaller monthly payments, she said.

Those who are determined to sink

their roots into Noe Valley should look around for an agent, Karels added, specifically one who is willing to put out the extra energy required to set up a "package" (a suitable multi-unit building that meets the needs of two or more partners). And, she emphasized, the buyers should be "really motivated."

Motivation, in this case, means a willingness to make major concessions in terms of location, size, and general condition of the building. It also means compromising with one's partners. Who gets the top flat or the garage, for example? Conflicts can arise over everything from architecture to the size of a kitchen. Yard, fireplace, neighborhood, schools—all must be discussed and agreed upon before a deal can go further.

Finding the right partner can be even more difficult, in fact, than finding the right building or qualifying for a loan.

"It's a lot easier to adjust to a property than to someone you don't really know," says Kevin Brickley, a house painter who bought a one-third interest in a three-flat building on Fair Oaks Street last year. "You really do sink or swim together."

Realtor Berke likens a home-owning partnership to a marriage. "It requires a lot of trust and a willingness to compromise," and the partners should know each other well beforehand, he said.

Christine Stonehouse, who with her husband split the \$275,000 price tag on a pair of flats on Hancock Street with another couple in September of 1986, says that being at about the same stage in life makes for good partners. The couples were married within a week of each other, and each wanted to buy a house and have children. Now each woman is

pregnant. Christine is due in July, her partner in August.

Maxam and his partners also cited compatibility as essential to the success of a partnership. "We are all on similar tracks," Maxam said, noting that each couple had a young son at the time they bought the property. The boys have become like brothers now, and the couples have helped each other care for the children.

Once partners have found each other, but before any papers are signed, they should draw up a legal contract. The contract formalizes the "tenancy in common" arrangement created when partners buy and live in the same building. "It's like a pre-nuptial agreement," noted Berke.

Some partners say a verbal contract will suffice, but most prefer to put the contract in writing, with the help of an attorney. In any case, it should spell out the details of the financing, building maintenance costs, and what to do if one party wants to sell or defaults on the loan.

Hastily-formed partnerships are likely to fall apart, warn most real estate brokers and homeowners. But the ones that survive may offer unexpected fringe benefits. Some partners say they have found the ideal balance between communal and single-family living.

One group of 14 friends, mostly filmmakers, found just such a balance when they joined together in 1980 to buy a seven-unit building at Elizabeth and Sanchez streets, now known as the "Elizabeth Street Amalgamation."

By far the largest partnership in Noe Valley, the arrangement is a testimonial to the practicality of partnership-buying.

"We didn't think we'd ever be able to buy a building. None of us were making much money then," says Wendy Zheutlin, one of the founding members of the Amalgamation and currently its managing partner. "But it's worked phenomenally well for eight years."

Zheutlin describes the set-up as a "collective household with a little more privacy."

At the time they put the deal together, none of the partners earned a large income. "We were not your conventional home buyers," Zheutlin said. But with a great deal of planning, plus the help of family and friends, they pulled it off.

"It was a miracle," said Berke, who represented the seller in the deal. "That's the largest group I've ever sold a building to." But the way house prices are rising in Noe Valley, he may see a lot more "amalgamations" in the future. □

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'History in Your Own Back Yard'

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afternoon of activities and entertainment. Noe Valley resident Judith Lynch, who has written several books on local history and who used to pen an architectural history column called "Artifacts" in the *Voice*, will lead a one-hour walking tour starting at 1 p.m. (meet on the library steps).

Festivities inside the library begin at 2 p.m. and include the film showing of a 1905 trolley car ride down Market Street and footage of film stars Fatty Arbuckle and Mabel Normand at the city's 1915 Panama-Pacific International Exposition.

Families are urged to bring their children for storytelling by Joan Sutton at 2 p.m. and a special musical performance by Doo-Dad, the father-daughter duo of Dick and Sarah Nathan, at 3 p.m.

History Day participants can also view videotaped highlights from Mayor Art Agnos' May 1988 visit to the library (when the branch was threatened with closing), as well as a film interview with Tillie Smith, a long-time neighborhood resident who lived into her 90s.

Neighborhood oldtimers will get a chance to pick out their teenage mugs in old photographs of James Lick Junior High students from the 1930s. Former James Lick coach Russell Cabot, now retired and living in Sun City, Ariz., donated his scrapbook to the Archives earlier this year.

The Noe Valley Archives collection was founded in 1979 by Margaret Wyatt, branch librarian at the time. For a few years thereafter, neighborhood history fans met regularly to swap recollections and memorabilia, but interest flagged in the mid-'80s, and the group stopped meeting.

Today the Archives is largely just a filing cabinet full of photographs, newspapers, and other documents. Future activities and the development of the collection will depend on the interest expressed by new volunteers, Greifer says.

For more information on the history celebration, look for fliers to be posted in early April. Those who'd like to lend a hand with History Day or volunteer to work on the Archives should call Greifer at the library, 285-2788. □

This was the view looking north from Nanny Goat Hill on 21st Street between Sanchez and Church streets circa 1898. The hill was virtually bare except for small farmhouses, but Eureka Valley was already bustling down below, with its newly constructed Mission High School (shown at right center). PHOTO COURTESY NOE VALLEY ARCHIVES



James Lick School's soccer team was city champion in 1936. Coach Russell Cabot (far right, second row) is now retired and living in Arizona. But he hopes that his former team members will identify themselves during Noe Valley History Day April 22.

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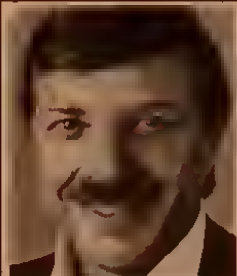
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Hunger Striker To Begin More Stringent Fast

By Mark Robinson

The gay man who has been on a hunger strike since Jan. 2, protesting discrimination against gays and people with AIDS, now says he plans to cut all calories from his diet.

"I've been pussyfooting around too long," said Stuart McDonald, 33, speaking from his 17th Street apartment on Easter Sunday. "It's time to take more serious measures because no one is responding the way they should."

As reported in the March issue of the *Voice*, McDonald added fruit juices to his diet in February, slowing his weight loss to 10 pounds for the month. He has not set a date for the caloric cutback, but said he would soon return to a water-only diet. He started the fast weighing 210 and is now down to 145.

McDonald said he would end the hunger strike if Gov. George Deukmejian declared his support for two bills now making their way through the California legislature. Together, the bills would ban discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or HIV status.

Although he has received support from some of the politicians on his 3,500-name mailing list (notably Assemblyman John Burton and supervisors Wendy Nelder and Terence Hallinan), McDonald is not optimistic that he will succeed. "To be honest with you, I think I'm going to die," he said.

Ecology Center Volunteers Load Up on Cans & Bottles

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cording to color, bundled newspapers, and even car batteries—in front of your residence. Call 647-1462 to sign up for a free once-a-month pickup.

"The center was started by some Noe Valley residents who are Green Party members," says Janet Shirley, an Ecology Center coordinator. "We've worked globally to locally over the last few years—on projects ranging from protecting the tropical rain forests to letter-writing campaigns protesting the homeporting of the *Missouri*."

The all-volunteer organization, which opened an office at 1304B Castro St. (near 24th Street), began the recycling project in January with 25 households. That number has already swelled to 200 households, Shirley says. Demand has increased so dramatically, in fact, that the center has expanded its rounds from one Sunday a month to every Sunday afternoon.

Fees from the recyclables collected are donated to the Bernal Recycling Center, which also receives the goods. In exchange, Bernal Recycling has loaned the Ecology Center the use of a truck.

Shirley says Green Future has a force of 15 volunteers who are active in the recycling project and over 200 supporters whose membership fees pay the center's expenses, but the group could always use more volunteer help. The recycling crew would especially appreciate the loan of another truck, she says.

According to Shirley, the Ecology Center will continue curbside service in Noe Valley until a similar program, now run jointly by the city and Sunset Scavenger, is launched in the neighborhood.

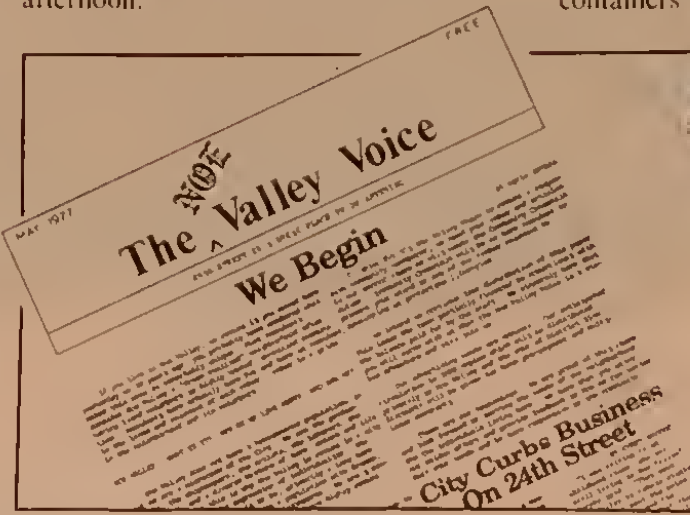
At the present time, Sunset Scavenger's recycling program serves 30,000 homes in the south-central portion of San Francisco. It should be extended to Noe Valley by 1991, however. Participating residents put glass, tin and aluminum containers in special bins alongside their

garbage cans. The recyclables are collected on weekly garbage pickup days by a separate recycling truck.

Tom Padilla, Sunset Scavenger's curbside recycling manager, said the program was developed to deal with the solid waste disposal crisis the city is now facing. "The rationale was basically to help avoid the drastic cost increase when our existing landfill is used up," he said.

Participating customers currently receive the service at no cost, but can expect a charge of about 50 cents a month a few years from now, Padilla added.

Meanwhile, if you'd rather help neighborhood high school students earn money with your recyclables, you can bring them to McAteer High School's student parking lot on O'Shaughnessy Boulevard the first Saturday of the month (9 a.m. to 1 p.m.) or to the Church Street entrance of Mission High the second Saturday of the month. Call John Stout at Friends of Noe Valley (826-0431) for help with transportation to these centers.



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Wes Russell: Retiring Rock of Gibraltar

By Steve Steinberg



Long considered a prince among bankers by his neighborhood friends, neighbors, and depositors, Wesley Russell finally decided to retire from the 24th Street branch of Gibraltar Savings, which he managed for 11 years. PHOTO BY BEVERLY THARP

Noe Valley said so long last month to one of its favorite bank managers, Wesley Russell. After 26 years with Gibraltar Savings, Russell retired March 31.

A party in his honor, organized by the Friends of Noe Valley, was held at Gibraltar's 24th Street offices on Russell's last day on the job. Friend and neighbor Nina Zimpel, director of the Noe Valley Nursery School, called him a "terrific member of the community. We should wish him well for the rest of his life."

Russell had spent the past 11 years at the reins of Gibraltar's Noe Valley branch. Highly popular with customers, he brought a sense of humor and a personal touch to the banking business. "He's had a special affection in the community," noted Jennine Barr, who took over as Gibraltar's branch manager April 1. "He's got his own style, he's unique. We'll all miss him."

Just how popular Russell was came to light in 1985, when Gibraltar corporate officials attempted to transfer him to another branch. When local customers found out about the impending transfer,

they began an intensive letter-writing campaign to stop the move. The effort paid off, and Russell was allowed to remain in Noe Valley.

Both Gibraltar management and Russell himself were impressed by the display of loyalty. "It made me realize," said Russell, "how many individual people I was involved with, rather than just a bunch of customers."

Looking back on his long career in banking, Russell said the biggest change he'd witnessed since entering the indus-

try was deregulation, which "meant an expansion of what savings and loans could do." As for the current S & L crisis, he is confident "we'll get over it."

To Russell, the chief benefit of his chosen occupation was "knowing lots of people, seeing people come and go, and knowing them in other capacities besides at the bank."

Born in Marin County, Russell got into banking after studying engineering at Healds College. He worked for Wells Fargo for 12 years before joining Gibraltar.

Russell, who will be 60 in June, said he had been thinking about retiring for the past couple of years and finally decided to seek early retirement. "I need a change," he said.

He doesn't consider his departure a serious retirement, however, but rather a "change in the way I occupy myself."

He will now spend time keeping up with his hobbies—building furniture, making ceramic masks, and fixing up his 28th Street house.

He also plans to do volunteer work with AIDS hospice patients as well as participate in other groups he hasn't had time for.

Russell will still drop around Gibraltar from time to time to say hello. And who knows, he'll probably be available for a little free banking advice. Good luck, Wesley! □



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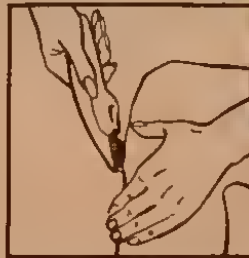
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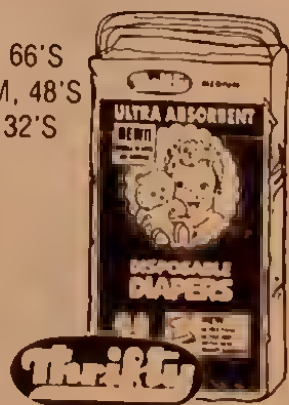
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Vicky Serveta— Shining Star of Athens By Night

By Jeff Kaliss

Vicky Serveta used to run the best little Greek restaurant in town, the Athens Cafe on Mason Street in the Tenderloin. The only trouble was, the fresh ingredients, fine cooking, and general good vibes attracted many more fans than the 18-seat eatery could accommodate. Diners sometimes had to sip their *avgolemono* (egg-lemon soup) while standing up.

So last fall, Vicky and husband Nick took over the old Circle Club on Valencia near 19th Street and renamed it Athens By Night. But even with a 75-seat dining room and an adjoining cocktail lounge, it's still crowded. On weekend nights, when the house band is serving up exotic Mediterranean melodies, you'd be lucky to find a chair. Then again, you'd probably rather be up and dancing.

The restaurant is a commercially successful embodiment of the dreams and determination of Vicky Serveta, who earned her first chef's diploma back home in Athens when she was 15, a year after her father's death. To help care for her large family, the raven-haired, dark-eyed Vicky sought several ways of making money in her teen years, including operating a classy beauty salon and working in musical theater, as well as cooking.

In 1975, she landed in Montreal with a traveling Greek theater troupe, for which she was songwriter, scriptwriter, and actress. Then Vicky met and married Nick Serveta, who owned a widespread chain of restaurants, and the two began keeping each other company as they pursued their careers across Canada and the U.S.

Although Vicky longed to return to Greece, she agreed to put her homesickness and acting career on hold and move to San Francisco with her husband in 1976. "The first year, I was crying every day," she recalls. "I thought: I'm stuck—what can I do? I don't even speak the language."

Then she gave herself a month to learn



Vicky Serveta has created a Greek pleasure palace at her Athens By Night restaurant on Valencia Street. Since relocating there from the Tenderloin, she's been able to expand her talents as chef and musician. PHOTO BY TOM WACHS

English and told Nick she wanted to go back into theater. "But he would never let me do so," says Vicky, with a wry look toward her devoted husband, who is content to let her handle most interviews and negotiations. "Greeks are very jealous people," she continued. "He was thinking, she might get to be a big star one day, and what am I gonna do? Chase after her with a gun or something?"

A few years later husband and wife were victimized by a shady business deal that left them in financial ruin. Vicky Serveta took jobs serving cocktails, first at Scoma's and later at the Hyatt Regency. Many of her customers, including a Hollywood director, she says, were impressed by her hearing, and urged her to return to acting. "But I would tell them, 'Please don't remind me of that, because you make me sick to my heart.'"

Tired of working for other people, Vicky resolved to exploit her culinary

talent and convinced her husband in 1985 to acquire the tiny Athens Cafe, which had been serving up Greek food in the steadily declining Tenderloin since the '30s.

"From the first day I started cooking, at five in the morning, people started coming with the aroma of the place," beams Vicky, going on to describe her artful approach to cuisine.

"First of all, the food is fresh and homemade every day. You never cook and keep the food in the refrigerator. Also, I cook with pure ingredients—no grease or fat. I use olive oil, fresh garden stuff, and go to the produce market every morning. I never use frozen vegetables like other restaurants."

Over the years, the Athens Cafe managed to attract more and more repeat customers, Greek and non-Greek, this writer included. But the hard reality of the Tenderloin took its toll on the

Servetas.

"It came to the point where I was really sick in my heart," Vicky says. "I could not see any more homeless people, winos, drug dealers, pimps, prostitutes, and people hooked on drugs who were every morning coming to my door [begging]. 'Oh please, give me money, I'm sick.'"

The tenderhearted Vicky, generous to a fault, was warned by police to cut back on handouts. "But if you didn't give these people money, they were very demanding and frightening. A lot of times my customers would be getting up and throwing them out."

Vicky and her fans in Noe Valley and the Mission District were relieved when she decided to relocate. But the move involved some drastic changes—the menu was formalized and enlarged, 15 employees were hired, and Vicky had to

Continued on Page 10

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If you intend to sell or exchange your property this year, list with an experienced agent. As a realtor since 1974, and for the last 14 years, I have specialized in the Noe Valley, Upper Market areas, and their bordering neighborhoods.

Below is a list of homes and residential income properties that I have personally sold (some as listing agent and others as cooperating selling agent) and a list of properties in Noe Valley in which I have an interest. If you're impressed with this list, just think what this type of experience means to a potential buyer of your property.

ADDRESS	UNITS	ADDRESS	UNITS	ADDRESS	UNITS
1297 Sanchez St	2	336 Duncan St	3	2405 24th St	3
550 Guerrero St	6 Vic	66 Danton St	Home	149 Berkeley	Home
269-269 1/2 27th St	2	266-266A Valley St	2	1314 Noe St	Condo
3902 26th St	4	516 Hill St	Home	240-D Liberty St.	Condo
247-49 Jersey St.	2	3828 22nd St.	3	3257 16th St	8
1129-31 Church St	3	4217 22nd St	Home	462 30th St	Home
500 Liberty St	3	3951 26th St	Home	610 Elizabeth St	2
717 Castro St.	3	822 Duncan St	Home	1227 Masonic	14
29-39 27th St.	6	539-41 Noe St	2	1050 Dolores St	5
3822 19th St	12	3828 21st St	Home	3223 Folsom St	6
3773 22nd St.	Home	3016 25th St	Home	1818 Church St.	Home
319 Hill St.	Home	216 San Jose Ave	4	175 Clipper St	Grand Vic
4089 25th St	4	132 Faith	Home	121 Brompton St	Home
501 Douglass St.	7	1609 Dolores St.	Home	67 Lamartine	Home
1010 Dolores St *	Grand Vic	45 Mirabel	Home	342 27th St	2
3715 Market St	Home	1083 Dolores St.	Grand Vic	1424 Sanchez St	Home
1301-05 Sanchez St.	3	18 Chattanooga St.	Grand Vic	116 Delmar	Grand Vic
1048-52 Sanchez St	5	3780 23rd St.	Grand Vic	1048 Potrero Ave	4
3725-27-27A 25th St.	3	62-64 Belcher St	2	1272 So Van Ness	(planning stages for 15-unit Condo)
394 Fair Oaks St.	3	63 Farnum St.	Home		
4096 26th St.	Home	4131 24th St.	4		
881 San Jose Ave	4	2401 24th St.	5		
				458 Alvarado	Home
				1027 Dolores	3

* Properties owned by Chris Ferrigno in whole or in part.



If you are interested in obtaining an expert opinion of the value of your property, please call me!
WHY LIST WITH ANYONE ELSE?!

Your Noe Valley Broker, Chris Ferrigno—641-0661

Athens By Night

Continued from Page 9

learn to dispense beverages besides wine and retsina.

"I bought a lot of books from bartending schools, and I started studying," she says. "Then I would buy the drinks and smell them and see how they tasted. I had no knowledge, I'm not very much of a drinker. But now I'm one of the best bartenders in town."

The Circle Club, at 811 Valencia St., also had to be stripped and completely redecorated. To enhance the bar area, the Servetas acquired a rare batch of Limestone collectible liquor bottles and installed a mock stone wall with a miniature waterfall.

able rents), will attract more business to the area. She points to other tony restaurants down the street, such as El Oso and Cendrillon, as well as to an increase in evening foot traffic. "I'm hoping it's gonna be the new North Beach," she declares.

And she believes that Athens By Night has easily established itself as the "queen" of Bay Area Greek eateries. "When you order moussaka, you shouldn't be ordering a little soft paste with a bunch of cream or cheese on top," which is what you'll get elsewhere, claims Vicky.

"My moussaka has many things on it. It has different layers of fried potato, fried eggplant, zucchini, then one layer

20-hour days and getting involved in all aspects of the booming business. "At times I have to be the busboy, the dishwasher, the cleaning guy, the chef, the maitre d', the hostess, waitress, bartender, everything," she says. "If you work hard, it really pays off. But what pays more is that you don't have any time to go and spend money anywhere, because you're too tired from working so hard."

When not dispensing cocktails, Vicky uses a wireless mike from behind the bar to sing with the band on weekends. She has plans to showcase several new songs of her own composition in the coming months.

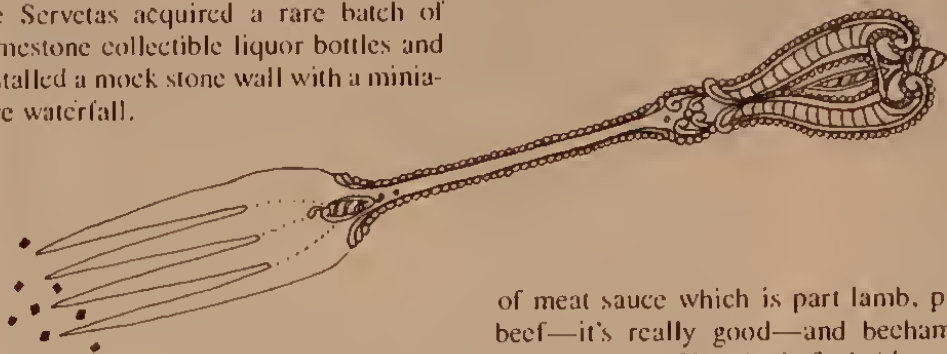
She's also 356 pages into her autobiography, in which she'll not only recount her culinary and theatrical adventures, but also offer opinions on a variety of topics from political repression under the military dictatorship in Greece to sexist repression of ambitious women.

She and her husband also have plans to expand Athens By Night to include valet parking, Sunday brunches, and even a second-story dining room.

"My customers pull their hair and say, 'Oh Vicky, you're dreaming,'" grins Serveta. "But I say, 'Did it ever occur to you to take anything out of the Greek

philosophers? For instance, that you have to dream, many dreams?"

"Personally, any dream I have in mind will come true—because I make it come true." □



Vicky believes that these improvements, along with a general upgrading of Valencia Street (which still has afford-

of meat sauce which is part lamb, part beef—it's really good—and bechamel sauce on top. You don't find this anywhere else."

To maintain her standards, Vicky often finds herself working several consecutive

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SHORT TAKES

New Sidewalk Sweepers

The East & West of Castro Street Improvement Club, working hand-in-hand with city street cleaning superintendent John Roumhanis, has introduced an innovative new anti-litter program to the neighborhood.

An idea dreamed up by the club's secretary, Fred Methner, the program assigns "hlock captains" to residential streets. Each block captain sweeps the hlock's sidewalks as many times a week as he or she sees fit.

These good Samaritans will also pluck hottles, cans, newspapers, and other litter out of the gutters. (They won't sweep the streets, however.)

The club has presented three applications for block captains to Roumhanis so far. The applicants are Gerri Popper, Andrew Levine, and Fred Methner.

Those who would like more information on how to become a block captain should contact Ernie Abalos at 695-2017. Senior citizens are encouraged to apply.

Grants From Friends

Attention, local non-profit organizations. The Friends of Noe Valley treasury is brimming over—with \$2,000 in grant monies. Neighborhood groups or individuals who can demonstrate that their project is of immediate benefit to the Noe Valley community are urged to apply.

Past grants have been awarded to local schools, seniors programs, ecology organizations, and performing arts groups.

Proposals should include a one- or two-page description of the organization and its history of serving Noe Valley residents, along with a statement of objectives and a brief overview of staffing and budget plans.

The number of awards (and their amounts) will depend upon the number and nature of proposals accepted.

Send all applications by May 15 to Mary Ann Malinak-Magnus, Friends of Noe Valley Grants Program, 4341 Army St., San Francisco, CA 94131. For further information call 285-3532.

New Baby in the House? Tell the world.

The Noe Valley Voice is aware that there are lots of new babies (and proud parents) out there who'd just love to have their pictures in the paper. So don't be shy. Let us know about that new arrival, and we'll be happy to spread the news in our "More Mouths To Feed" column. Send us your birth announcement c/o the Noe Valley Voice, 1021 Sanchez St., San Francisco, CA 94114. We promise a good review.



Buryn's Eye View

Photographer Ed Buryn captured Lenny Lesser, son of local author Eugene Lesser, as he went into a spin cycle at a Castro Street laundromat.

Upper Noe Softball

Softball season in Upper Noe Valley will get off to a late but welcome start in mid-May this year. Sign-ups for the Upper Noe Adult Softball League will be held during the first two weeks in April, while repairs to the league's weather-worn diamond (adjacent to the Upper Noe Recreation Center, 30th and Sanchez streets) are completed.

The 28-year-old Upper Noe League currently has 90 active players comprising six adult men's teams. The teams play each other once a week on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday evenings at 6:30 p.m.

For more information call 647-2474 and ask for one of the league's directors—Marcus Steinback, Tim Roff, or Kevin Black.

The entry fee is \$6.

A Bounty of Buttons

Button lovers and collectors can feast their eyes on a five-case exhibit of buttons, both old and new, at the Eureka

Valley Library this month.

Gretchen Payne, a long-time Eureka Valley resident, will display a selection of over 300 silver, glass, pewter, brass, copper, rubber, ivory, enamel, fabric and shell buttons, plus provide a handout on the history of buttons.

The library, at 3555 16th St., is open Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays from 1 to 6 p.m., Tuesdays from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Wednesdays from 1 to 9 p.m. Call 626-1132 for more information.

Help Kids Fight Drugs

At a time when parents have become increasingly concerned about their children using alcohol and recreational drugs, two Bay Area programs are working hard to both prevent and treat kids with addictions.

The Adolescents and Families Project at San Francisco General Hospital is offering a free 16-week drug treatment program for teens and young adults ages 13 to 21. The outpatient program has helped over 300 families in the past three years.

Participants can sign up for family therapy, group therapy, or multi-family

groups, and at least one adult family member must participate. Sessions are offered in the late afternoons and early evenings. Contact Dr. Ken Parker or Raquel Garcia at 821-8611 for further information.

If you don't need treatment but would like to get involved in prevention, the Bay Area's National Council on Alcoholism would like to hear from you. This organization is seeking volunteers to participate as educators in Youth Aware, a program designed to educate elementary school students about alternative ways to respond to substance abuse and family situations in which alcoholism and other addictions exist.

Geared toward students ages 6 to 11, the program attempts to reach children before they have begun experimenting with alcohol and other drugs.

Volunteers receive intensive training in classroom techniques, communication, and public speaking. The training takes place in 12 sessions and emphasizes a non-judgmental approach to alcohol and alcoholism.

Continued on Page 12



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SHORT TAKES

Continued from Page 11

To learn more about Youth Aware, call Bernadine Luckey at the National Council on Alcoholism—Bay Area, 861-4000, or write for a brochure and application to 1049 Market St., Suite 507, San Francisco, CA 94103-1605.

Meals on Wheels

Enhance the quality of life for homebound elders by becoming a volunteer at Meals on Wheels of San Francisco, Inc. (MOW). This 18-year-old home delivery meal service is looking for people to work both in the office and directly with clients, for a minimum of two hours per week.

MOW currently helps over 600 San Francisco elders to enjoy the comfort and familiarity of their own homes, rather than having to face the cost and alienation of institutional care. In addition to meal delivery, MOW provides its clients with another kind of nurturing—visits from volunteers who function as friends and helpers.

Pat Durham, volunteer coordinator at MOW, says volunteers do everything from running errands to sending birthday cards. "We especially need people willing to provide transportation," she adds. "It isn't always easy to get senior citizens to doctors' appointments during working

hours."

Volunteers for Meals on Wheels, located at 965 Mission St., can also help out in the evenings and on weekends. Call 495-3333 for details.

Mini-Police Station

A movement is afoot to open a police "koban" on the corner of Mission and 16th streets to fight escalating violence. The Mission Safety Committee, Supervisor Jim Gonzalez, and KIQI radio station have joined forces with several Mission District businesses to raise the \$50,000 needed to open the fully-equipped mini-police station.

Last year police responded to 5,638 calls in the four-square-block area surrounding 16th and Mission, according to crime statistics. The citywide average for any four-block area is only 250 calls a year.

By late March, thanks to a KIQI radiothon and other fundraising events, organizers had raised \$37,000 toward their goal. Those interested in helping with the drive or in making a pledge can call Tim Dayton of the Mission Safety Committee, 476-8431, or Alice Perez of Supervisor Gonzalez' office, 554-5338.

Jane Underwood and Denise Minor contributed to this month's Short Takes. □

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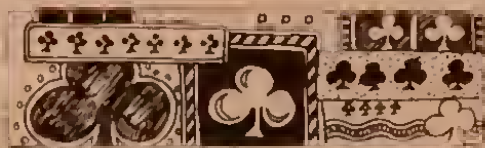
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After his televised sing of "Danny Boy," Dwight Williams (behind the counter) dispensed Irish soda bread and other baked goods to the St. Patrick's Day morning mob at Star Bakery.

The Sharin' of the Green

By Jeff Kaliss

Much earlier in this century, Noe Valley was known as a homey haven for many Irish émigrés and their descendants. So it was fitting that this year's St. Patrick's Day, celebrated March 17, was announced at the top of the morning by the sugar-glazed tenor of Dwight Williams, of Church Street's Star Bakery. Williams sang "Danny Boy" on KGO-TV, in a live broadcast from the bakery, while Irish and non-Irish alike lined up to procure traditional scones and soda bread.

Sandra Saunders, bartender at the Dubliner a few blocks away on 24th Street, found that her establishment was nearly full by noontime, partly with young Irish expatriates who had been used to having the day off in the old country. "Even if they didn't get the day off here," said Saunders, a former Dubliner, "I think they'd take the day off."

By mid-afternoon several neighborhood bars were serving up steaming plates of corned beef and cabbage. The Dubliner was visited by the Irish Pipers band, clad in green jackets and khaki kilts, and the Guinness, Bushmill's and Bailey's continued to flow. "The music is the connection between Ireland and America," declared Kieron Saunders, Sandra's brother-in-law and a devoted Dubliner (bar and city). He pointed out that back home St. Patrick's Day is "basically a religious celebration... a Holy Day of Obligation is what we call it."

The Dubliner had to increase its serving staff to five by the time the day-jobbers had returned to the neighborhood, and the live sounds of reels and jigs spiced up the free food at the Bailey on Church Street and the Cork 'n' Bottle west on 24th Street. At the Cork, Bridie Daly admitted to some longing for the Emerald Isle, the place



The Irish Pipers summoned up memories of the home sod with their rendition of "A Nation Once Again" outside the Dubliner March 17.

she abandoned 36 years ago. But she's come to believe that St. Patty's is better celebrated the American way.

"They have more parties here and

bigger get-togethers," heamed the Hibernian matriach, who is surrounded in this country by her husband, children and grandchildren. "It's just more fun." □

Photos by Ed Buryn

Celebrants improvised a jig in the narrows of the Cork 'n' Bottle as Bridie Daly (facing the camera at the second table) smiled on the merriment.



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Edith Dudley's 90 Years of Recollections

By Larry Beresford

In 1900, six months after her birth in 1899, Noe Valley native Edith Dudley moved with her family from a flat on Liberty Street into their new home at 21 Vicksburg St. "I later realized that it was an ugly, ungainly house, but it was the very latest thing when my father had it built."

In a recent interview at the Cupertino retirement community where she now lives, Dudley reminisced about her years in the Vicksburg Street house.

"My sister Irene, who remembered a lot more than I did, said that Dad paid the workmen every day in gold," Dudley recalled. "The house was two stories in front and four stories in back," where the hill slopes down to Church Street.

In those days Dudley's father's half-sister, Lizzie, and her husband, Frank Madison, lived next door at 25 Vicksburg St. "They had the kind of house that children love to explore. I envied my cousin Lucille, who had the bedroom inside the turret. I thought that was the most romantic spot."

The girls' grandfather, Michael Scholl, was born in Bavaria in 1817. He immigrated to New England at age 20 and joined General Fremont's army to fight in the Mexican-American War. Later he married a St. Louis woman.

To get to the West Coast, he and his family sailed down the Mississippi River and around Cape Horn "with my Aunt Josephine [then a small child] literally tied to the mast. They didn't want her wandering around, and it was supposed to be a very rough passage," Dudley explained.

The family landed in San Francisco in the Rush of 1849, but Scholl hadn't come for gold hunting. With three small children (and later several more, including Dudley's father, Walter Scholl, born in 1855), "he was more interested in building a house for his family," said Dudley.

"And of course they arrived here with nothing. At first they lived under the most primitive conditions."

But Scholl eventually thrived in San Francisco as a master cabinetmaker, and over the years he filled his house at 904 Vallejo St. with his own hand-tooled furniture. He later became proprietor of the old Washington Brewery on Washington Street. He died in 1897 at the age of 80.

"Grandfather was also civic-minded. I remember my father laughing as he told how grandfather had demonstrated a

LANDMARKS of Noe Valley



The extended Scholl family posed for this turn-of-the-century portrait in front of their new home at 21 Vicksburg St. Edith Scholl Dudley is the youngest girl, at the bottom of the stairs.

wooden fire escape he built at Woodward Gardens," a 19th-century theme park near 14th Street.

Both Michael and Walter "were crazy about sailing ships," and loved to go down to the bustling San Francisco waterfront. "My father owned a small sailing boat with his brother-in-law, Henry Schwerin, who had married my Aunt Emma."

The Schwerins "had a milk ranch and nursery down in Visitacion Valley, in a very rural setting. We used to go there about once a month, on a trolley car way out Mission Street. It would be a full day's outing. It was fun to go out there, because they had a big old farmhouse, all rambling and funny."

The Schwerins' dairy and nursery were located on the street that still bears their name today. According to turn-of-the-century directories, the Schwerin family also operated a bakery and restaurant on Clay Street.

Before building the Vicksburg Street house, Walter Scholl, who had learned Morse code, established his career in the U.S. Army Signal Corps, which was eventually incorporated into the U.S. Weather Bureau. He met his future wife Elizabeth in New York state, and returned with her to San Francisco when Dudley's older sister Irene was 2.

Scholl was interested in early radio communication research, and he worked on Mount Tamalpais and in office build-

ings in downtown San Francisco, taking weather instrument readings from the roofs.

"My father didn't live to see the 1915 Panama-Pacific International Exposition. He died in 1914, but he knew all kinds of people—the handleader at the San Francisco grandstand in Golden Gate Park, Charles Cassasa, and Charlie McCarthy, the doctor who operated on my sister's eyes. Those were North Beach people."

Dudley's mother enjoyed a different life in Noe Valley than she had known growing up in New York state with her stern, widowed father, an engineer from Switzerland. "Of course, she thought there was no place like San Francisco. She loved it. She spent half her life in Chinatown, shopping!"

Elizabeth's two sisters came to live in the big house on Vicksburg Street, and "my father found husbands for both of them," Dudley declared. "He would bring strangers home to dinner. I'm sure he would not have admitted that it was anything of the sort, but it all turned out well."

One of those husbands was Arthur O'Neill, captain of the Pacific mailboat the *SS Siberia*, which made runs to China in 28 days. "Uncle Arthur brought things back from China every trip," such as Chinese vases and pottery. "Over the years, these things have disappeared. The earthquake damaged a lot of them. Everything fell out of the shelves of the china closets."

Dudley, who was only 6 at the time of the earthquake, was sleeping in the little back bedroom of the Vicksburg Street house on the fateful morning of April 19, 1906.

"I remember the terrific roar of the earthquake itself," she recalls. "My father was dressed in his nightshirt, calming everybody down, saying, 'It's just the earth's crust hardening.' It was like nothing I'd ever seen before, and I could see how alarmed my parents were."

Luckily, their house was not structurally damaged, so Dudley's father took the girls to the top of the hill above Vicksburg Street to see the devastation and the fire.

"I remember the *Call* building, which had a curved roof—we could see the outline of the frame burning. St. James Church with its big steeple [at 23rd and Guerrero] was one of the first things to catch fire."

After the quake, Edith's mother Elizabeth, "who was good at improvising, did the cooking in the street," because lights in the houses were forbidden due to possible gas leaks. "People named Benson came and occupied our basement. I don't know how we got to know them, except that they were desperate and in need of a

Continued on Page 15

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LANDMARKS

Continued from Page 14

place to live."

The next fall, Dudley began her education at Edison Primary School on Church Street. She later attended Horace Mann Junior High, Mission High and Lick-Wilmerding, a private school. Her mother eventually gave up the house on Vicksburg and moved to Pacific Grove. Edith's father had bought six empty sandlots out on Clement Street for about \$100 each, and, after his death, Elizabeth was able to live off the profits from selling them as that street was developed.

At age 23 Dudley took a job in Yosemite Valley, working as an accounting clerk for one of the park companies. After five years, she moved back to the city and married her first husband, the late Basil Forbes (whose grandniece, Noe Valley acupuncturist Therese Coupez, now visits Dudley regularly at the retirement home).

Dudley married her second husband, the late Carl Dudley, in 1950, but she never lived in Noe Valley again. She vividly remembers many scenes from her years growing up in the neighborhood, however.

She can recall the Hartje family grocery at 22nd and Chattanooga streets. "My father would go in and chat with old man Hartje. They both spoke German, and they'd talk over the events of the day."

As a child, she would go to the ice cream store "whenever I had a nickel. There was a real ice cream parlor, Varellas, on Mission [at 22nd Street]. It had little tables with wire-backed chairs to match, and there would be such a sweet odor inside. I'd go to the Nickelodeon [at



This photo, from Edith Dudley's scrapbook, shows Edith or her sister—she's not sure which—posing with a parasol in front of a Market Street Railway car, circa 1900. Ninety-year-old Dudley, whose eyesight is failing, asked that the Voice refrain from taking a current photo.

24th and Vicksburg streets] every Saturday, with my friend Josephine Lyon, to see *The Perils of Pauline*."

As a teenager, Dudley sometimes pumped the church organ in the Lebanon Presbyterian Church—now the Noe Valley Ministry. She attended "Miss McArdle's" dancing school on Guerrero, "where we did the lancers, the polka, the Irish jig, the Highland fling, and other figure dances." She also frequented the gym at a fraternal club called the Turn Verein near Dolores Park. But Dudley describes her teen years as quiet.

"My friend Ruth, who lived on 23rd Street, was boy struck, and I was not. In those days boys weren't interested in girls, so Ruth would call them up," she

recalls. "Ruth would come to my house to use the phone, because my mother assumed we were behaving."

"There was a boy, Edmund Levillain, whose people were French. We got him on the phone and talked a lot of nonsense. Then his mother came on the phone and said, 'I want you to leave my boy alone.'"

"When we went to school the next day, the teacher called us to the front of the class. 'Edmund says you were calling him on the phone last night, and his mother didn't like it.' We just looked so blank and innocent. By the time we finished convincing the teacher that Edmund was all wrong, he was apologizing to us. I think that's probably the worst thing in my past." □

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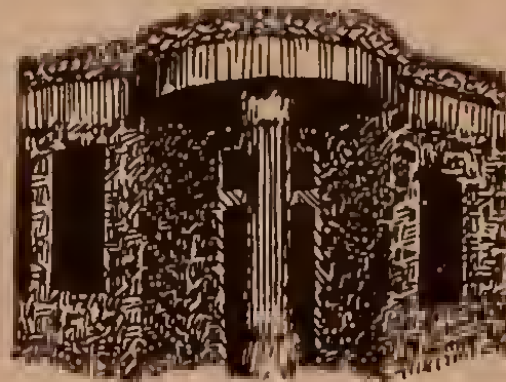
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The Friends of Noe Valley recently compiled the results of a membership survey conducted earlier this year. The survey showed that the typical FNV member owns his own home (87.2 percent) and has one or two people living in the household (65.9 percent). Most members (62 percent) are between the ages of 35 and 54, and over 71 percent have no children under 18.

I was surprised that more parents of young children aren't involved and that so few renters are represented. Could it be that increasing numbers of Noe Valley families with kids are becoming tenants rather than homeowners due to high housing costs? And, as tenants, do they feel reluctant to stake a claim in a neighborhood where high rents (and increasing evictions) put them on such a tenuous footing? Or perhaps young families are simply leaving the neighborhood.

Friends member Miriam Blaustein unknowingly backed up this last possibility when she noted that the group's Dumpster Day on Feb. 25 attracted "a lot of people who were moving out of Noe Valley." At least two mothers-to-be, she observed, "told me they needed bigger



places but hadn't been able to find anything affordable here."

As for the scoop on Dumpster Day, the Friends collected around three tons of residents' discards—ranging from garden clippings to stereo turntables to the proverbial kitchen sink—plus 17 new members. The event turned out to be a great swap meet, and the Friends praised the Department of Public Works for its efficient Monday morning clean-up of all the leftovers.

MORE GROUPS TO JOIN

By Jane Underwood

Friends Go After Illegal Businesses

But the Friends' meatiest news this month comes from John Stalp, who heads the group's spunky planning committee. The committee has started "actively pursuing a policy of reporting illegal commercial uses when neighborhood residents are displaced," he says.

Illegal units include second-floor businesses on 24th Street, as well as residentially zoned homes that have been secretly converted into full-fledged business enterprises.

Historically, the Friends have acted as neighborhood watchdogs, guarding against such encroachments on housing in Noe Valley. But in recent years, notes Stalp, the FNV has slackened its efforts, largely out of frustration at trying to work with an "unresponsive, understaffed" city Planning Department. The result of the city's failure to enforce the zoning laws is "obvious," Stalp maintains. "We found 14 suspected illegal units, on 10 sites, during just one Sunday afternoon walking tour."

Those who have any input for Stalp's committee should call him at 826-0431.

New Board for Merchants

Let us not forget, however, that most commercial establishments are perfectly legal, not to mention appreciated. The Noe Valley Merchants and Professionals Association represents many of our favorite shops and services. They're also the ones who gave away 12 Easter hams last month.

And on March 29 the group elected six new leaders to its 10-member board of directors. Now at the helm of merchant

activities in Noe Valley are Michelle Gottlieb (Taste of Honey), Tom Crane (Colorerane Arts), Dan Smedley (Bank of America), Rory Ward (Rory's Twisted Scoop Ice Cream), Charles Morganstern (25th Street Workout), Armando Bolanos (Bolanos Realty), Harry Alco (Twin Peaks Properties), Hugh Stone (Graystone Liquors), Art Uland (independent contractor), and Vi Gianaras (Panos' restaurant).

The Merchants are also looking for a new president, Gianaras, who served as president for three years, just stepped down from her post in order to devote more time not only to managing her restaurant, but also to motherhood. She has two active toddlers.

Flea Market Benefits School

The Upper Noe Neighbors have taken Buena Vista Alternative Elementary School (30th and Noe streets) under their wing. The Neighbors are sponsoring an Upper Noe Valley flea market and bake sale to benefit Buena Vista this coming

Continued on Page 18

THE WHO, WHAT & WHERE OF NEIGHBORHOOD GROUPS

Friends of Noe Valley

Contact: Jacques Bertrand
Answering machine number: 285-3532
Mailing Address: 1178 Dolores St.,
San Francisco, CA 94110.
Meetings: Second Thursday of month, Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey St., 7:30 p.m.

East & West of Castro Street Improvement Club

Contact: Paul Kantus, 647-3753.
Mailing Address: Secretary Fred Methner,
327 Jersey St., San Francisco, CA 94114.
Meetings: First Wednesday of month, Room 108, James Lick School, 1220 Noe St., 8 p.m.

The Noe Valley Merchants and Professionals Association

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 146003,
San Francisco, CA 94114.
Meetings: Last Wednesday of month, Bank of America, 24th and Castro, 9 a.m.

Upper Noe Neighbors

Contact: Janice Gendreau, 641-5989.
Mailing Address: 403 28th St.,
San Francisco, CA 94131
Meetings: Every other month, Upper Noe Recreation Center, Day and Sanchez streets, 7:30 p.m. Call for specifics

Duncan-Newburg Neighborhood Association

Contact: Evelyn Martin, 826-6734, or Janet Kennedy, 647-1844.
Mailing Address: 41 Newburg St.,
San Francisco, CA 94131
Meetings: Irregular

Fairmount Neighborhood Association

Contact: Al Ujere, 648-3545, or Susan Nutter, 285-8484.
Mailing Address: 235 Randall St.,
San Francisco, CA 94131.
Meetings: Held periodically at Upper Noe Recreation Center, Day and Sanchez, 7 p.m.

Glen Park Association

Mailing Address: Glen Park Association,
P.O. Box 31292, San Francisco, CA 94131.
Meetings: Second Tuesday of month, Glen Park Recreation Center, Elk and Cheney, 7:30 p.m.

Fair Oaks Neighbors

Contact: Kevin Brickley, 285-4938
Mailing Address: 165 Fair Oaks St.,
San Francisco, CA 94110.
Meetings: Twice a year at ICA Auditorium, 24th and Guerrero streets.

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MORE GROUPS to join

Continued from Page 17

Saturday, April 8, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the school.

They hope to help the school beautify its grounds, shore up a needy library, and buy more art supplies, among other things. Since over 100 families will be contributing to the flea market, chances

are these goals will be reached with no problem.

Noe Doggies Don't

Families with children, especially preschool children, will benefit from another group's efforts on Saturday, April 22, when the Elizabeth/Douglass SAFE group holds a clean-up day at Noe Courts (Douglass and 24th streets).

According to Elizabeth Street resident Mary Wikstrom, who is the mother of a toddler, "The purpose of the clean-up effort is not only to remove the dog poop and to generally clean up the park, but also to communicate to those who are causing the [dog-doo] problem that we would appreciate it if they would change their behavior." Wikstrom emphasizes,

however, that "it's not a question of dogs or children, but of peaceful coexistence."

The clean-up is scheduled to begin at 8:30 a.m.—the best time for a friendly encounter with those early morning dog-walkers.

Making Streets SAFE

Neighborhood SAFE blocks are alive and well in Glen Park, too. The SAFE club on the 500 block of Laidley Street held a meeting on March 28 to talk about participating in the city's "underground wire program"—a program to move electrical, telephone, and cablevision wires underground. These wires, aside from being eyesores, are a hazard during windstorms and earthquakes.

Residents who form SAFE blocks, by the way, can also tackle more serious problems. Marcia DeHart, president of the Glen Park Association, reported at the group's annual meeting Feb. 14 that chief among her goals for 1989 would be the promotion of SAFE blocks. Why? To

prevent drugs and drug-related crime from infiltrating Glen Park any more than they already have, she said.

And if you think that sleepy little Glen Park (like Noe Valley) doesn't need to worry about drugs, think again. On Dec. 27, two groups of youths—rivals in the gang wars to control crack cocaine distribution—opened fire on each other near Glen Park School. Twelve shots were fired, and although no one was injured, terrified residents temporarily found themselves smack in the middle of a war zone.

Drug-dealing is certainly more concentrated in parts of the Mission and Potrero districts, but no neighborhood is exempt. And if it doesn't mean outright gang warfare, it could mean an increase in burglaries and strong-arm robberies by those who are desperate to support their drug habits.

Contact San Francisco SAFE at 553-1984 to find out how to organize a neighborhood watch program. □

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The Great Noe Valley Rat Race

A Thrilling Tale by Florence Holub

One of Noe Valley's most admirable characteristics is its wonderful mix of people, some from faraway places. One of my oldest and dearest neighbors on 21st Street is Janet Malcolm Pera. Janet was born in Perth, near Dundee, which accounts for her delightful Scottish accent. This story begins with a phone call from Janet on a Sunday last month, just as we were sitting down to family dinner. She asked us to please come over, her cat had caught a rat; she had put the cat outside, but, oh my, the rat had escaped and was hiding in her parlor.

We responded in force. My son Eric, his bride Julie, their teenaged daughter Jessica, and I crossed the street armed with a coal shovel, dust mop, sponge mop, and broom. This we did just as another neighbor's afternoon party was breaking up. Their well-groomed guests stared open-mouthed at the strange procession marching in line to Janet's house. But Jessica filled them in. "We are going after a rat," she explained, not missing a beat.

Janet met us at the front door and immediately revealed her mixed emotions about the crisis. "I don't want him to run up my legs," she cried repeatedly, but alternated it with, "You won't hurt him, will you?"—demonstrating her tender compassion for all living things, especially four-legged ones.

We found the rat huddled under the settee. I tried to corner him with the dust mop, but he skittered away and under the Oriental highboy to the right of the fireplace. Eric poked under the highboy with his coal shovel, and then removed the bottom drawer, only to find him gone. We could tell by the rat's scratching sound, however, that he was climbing up the back of the chest. The little fellow crept higher and higher until his shaking head popped up at the top. One frightened look at us, and down to the floor he went, then out along the baseboard.

Julie was waiting with an open box, but somehow he managed to slip past her, moving like a shot behind spindly end tables covered with knickknacks and breakable china. He had traveled almost the full length of the room when he abruptly went into reverse, ricocheted off the four corners, and scooted back under the highboy again.

This time when Eric flushed him out, the rat ran directly into the open box, and Julie, our heroine, immobilized him gently but firmly with a folded newspaper. All the while, Janet was calling from the hall: "You won't hurt him, will you!" Of course we wouldn't.

Triumphantly, Julie and Eric carried the box out into the garden, where they released the rat into the thick greenery. Janet was relieved and grateful that we didn't harm the little creature.

Back at our house, we were just about to dine when we received another phone call from Janet. She told us regretfully, "The cat just came in licking his chops. All that work for nothing!" So that was the end of the critter.

But what a comedy he provided, one worthy of Mack Sennett! I wasn't much help while the chase was going on, mostly because I was bent over laughing and holding my sides. Fortunately, he wasn't one of those big, disgusting wharf rats, but most likely a Norwegian roof rat, who probably died of cardiac arrest before the cat got him. As rats go, he wasn't bad looking... truly. In any event, we shall always remember him, and if the *Voice* chooses to print this article, he will be posthumously honored.

May he rest in peace. —Ed.



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THE RUMOR trickling through the neighborhood that our water supply could be the culprit in the so-called "Noe Valley cancer cluster" should be squelched, says 24th Street psychiatrist Philip Wolfson, who is heading up the Cancer Cluster Citizens Committee for Eureka and Noe Valleys (CCCCENV).

As all you *Voice* readers know, the San Francisco Health Department released a study late last year with findings that Noe and Eureka valleys had 2½ times the expected number of childhood cancer cases during the period 1973-85. The city is currently conducting a follow-up investigation focusing on such environmental factors as Sutro Tower radiation, emissions from U.C. Medical Center, and the local tap water.

"The water supply rumor has not panned out at all," reports Dr. Wolfson. "Our San Andreas source has been checked out by the Water Department and does not appear to give reason for concern."

More good news on the subject from Dr. Wolfson: "There were no new cases [of cancer in children] reported in our area in 1986 and 1987, with only one case reported in 1988."

Wolfson's committee is assisting the Health Department with another aspect of the follow-up study: interviewing those Noe and Eureka Valley families with children under 5 who were diagnosed with cancer between 1980 and 1985 (the years when the excess of cancer cases appeared). If you know of anyone who

and now **RUMORS** behind the news
for the **BY MAZOOK**

falls into that category who might have moved away, tell the family to contact either Dr. Wolfson, 550-1700, or Dr. Duncan Saunders at the San Francisco Department of Public Health.



SIGNS OF THE TIMES. The kids at Alvarado Elementary School came up with some award-winning inventions in this year's "Invent America" competition, sponsored by the San Francisco Unified School District.

First-grader Olivia Salisbury Sinaiko won first prize in her grade division with what she calls a "Teacher Talker," a hearing-aid device made of a long tube with bottomless paper cups at either end. By using a "Teacher Talker" during a particularly chaotic class session, students can "cut out children's voices and make the teacher's voice louder," explains Olivia.

I hope Jeffrey Loucks, who placed second in the citywide fourth-grade competition, has the patent on his invention because it's a real winner. Jeffrey's "Popcorn Sifter" sifts out those nasty unpopped kernels and, when mass-produced, will save many a crown from persecution.

Jeffrey, by the way, also came in sec-

ond in the Alvarado competition. He lost the top spot to classmate Ritchel Tan, who invented a "Cheese Shredder Keeper." In describing the device, Ritchel wrote, "I got the idea because regular cheese shredders let the cheese go all over the place [and are] too dangerous. [With mine] you can keep it in the can for later use." There's nothing like leftover cheese shreds, I always say.

Other Alvarado entries worth mentioning are second-grader Jordana DeLory's "Soup Cooler" (a propeller over the bowl) and fourth-grader Lily Chumley's revolutionary "Bad Breath Finder," a cupped mask that, Lily instructs, "you put on your mouth and you can smell your breath... so you do not get embarrassed from bad breath."



ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT: The neighbors around the intersection of 21st and Chattanooga streets have apparently won their fight to save three trees (ash and carob) that the owners at 3567 21st St. (not 3571, as erroneously reported in last month's column) were going to remove from in front of their house. Neighbors got 70 people to sign a Save the Trees petition, which they deliv-

ered to the DPW's Division of Urban Forestry. A public hearing was ordered, but the tree-choppers withdrew their application before the confrontation. Now all we need, I guess, is a variance for the tree roots so they can continue to crack the sidewalk and street. Catch-22.

Twenty-fourth Street will no longer be a blue-free parking zone. Soon two handicapped parking zones will be created, one on the Sanchez Street corner in front of St. Clair's Liquors and the other at the corner of Noe and 24th in front of the old Community Chest, the junk store that lost out in the neighborhood Monopoly game last year.

In other traffic news, Sanchez Street resident Sonda Charlton, aka "The White Line Warrior," has moved to Sacramento. Sonda made news a while back when she painted in her own crosswalks at Sanchez and 26th streets as a protest against the city's refusal to make the accident-prone intersection a four-way stop.

Neighbors near the intersection of 24th and Hoffman are also starting to scream for a stop sign on 24th to halt the speeders racing down from Grand View heights.



ON THE FOOD FRONT: Egon Grundmann has bought Sweet Cakes bakery in Downtown Noe Valley and renamed it, appropriately, the Noe Valley Bakery. (Remember when it was Plate's?) Egon, who hails from Kohn (Cologne),

Continued on Page 21

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RUMORS

Continued from Page 20

Germany, is going to return it to a "full line bakery," he says.

The Church Street eaterie Chloe's was featured in the April issue of *Details Magazine*, a slick New York monthly, as one of "the" places for brunch in the Bay Area, along with Il Fornaio, Sally's, and Doidge's. Chloe's is open traditional brunch hours (9 a.m. to 3 p.m.) but, amazingly, does not serve omelettes. The cafe offers rosemary-walnut toast and several original egg dishes, however.



TOP OF THE POPS at Streetlight Records is the Cowboy Junkies' new album, *The Trinity Session*. Streetlighter Scott

Lenz can't figure it out, either: "It's basically your trendy pseudo-intellectual country folk, which is getting a lot of radio play."

Over at Aquarius Records, musician Keith Le Blanc is topping the charts with his industrial funk, *Stranger Than Fiction*. At Phoenix Books and Records the best-sellers are the blues of Etta James and the vampire writings of Anne Rice (the San Francisco author who also publishes erotic fiction under the pseudonym A. N. Roquelaure).

At Cover to Cover bookstore, Christopher Nolan's life story, *Under the Eye of the Clock*, and *All I Really Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten* by Robert Fulghum are both selling well, as is Mary Morris' *Nothing to Declare: Memoirs of a Woman Traveling Alone*. Noe Valleons are also flocking to buy *Bradshaw on: The Family*, which Cover to Cover can't keep on the shelves.

On the video front, the most requested movies in the neighborhood are *A Fish*

Called Wanda, Married to the Mob, and *Crocodile Dundee II*, if you can believe it. Blockbuster Video reports that its big hit is *Big Business*, starring Bette Midler and Lily Tomlin.

The best store window of the month has got to be Harry Aleo's Twin Peaks Properties, which sports photos of Oliver North and George Milhous Bush next to a list of winners in the Merchants Association's "FREE HAMS" contest.



TIME FOR THE NOE VALLEY QUIZ. To show your friends that you are no April fool, can you answer all of the following questions about your neighborhood?

1. How far do Twin Peaks rise above sea level?
2. Who was Joseph Comerford?
3. Where was the South Philly Cheese-steak Company located in Downtown Noe Valley, and who owned it?
4. Who was Little Italy's first chef?

5. Where and when did Nobel Prize-winner Mother Teresa open a Noe Valley branch of her Missionaries of Charity?

6. True or false? There was once a goldfish pond in the parking lot of Dan's Gas.

7. What are the yearly dues of the East & West of Castro Street Improvement Club?

8. Where is the oldest house in Noe Valley?

9. What will be moving into the space formerly occupied by Castro Pharmacy?

10. What was the name of the first car built in California, and where and when was it built?

Is it answer time now? April Fool's. You will have to wait until next month, but don't strain your brain. Write down your answers and send them to me, Mazook, c/o the *Noe Valley Voice*, 1021 Sanchez St., San Francisco, CA 94114. Anyone who answers all 10 questions correctly will be given a prize and become a certified Noe Valleon. Ciao for now. □

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MORE MOUTHS to feed.

By Jane Underwood

Sarah Louise de Tuboly

"Parenting is a great experience," declares Louis T. de Tuboly, a 40-year-old real estate broker. "It makes you a lot less selfish and self-centered. Somebody else is depending on you."

Louis can now speak with authority. He and Louise Allrich celebrated the birth of their first child, a daughter, on July 21, 1988, at Children's Hospital. Sarah Louise de Tuholy was born at 2:59 a.m., tipping the scales at 12 pounds, 7 ounces (a record weight for both her pediatrician and obstetrician).

"She's a dream come true," says Louise. "I feel like I'm the luckiest person in the world."

Louis and Louise met a year and a half ago at a Pete Escovedo concert and dance. They had only been dating for three months when they discovered that Sarah was on the way. But "we both always liked and wanted kids," says Louis, so the surprise was a welcome one.

"I've had a successful career," adds Louise, who at 42 owns her own art gallery in the city. "And I'd already made my mark. Actually, the timing was really good."

Louis, who immigrated with his family to the U.S. from Hungary when he was 8 years old, says that having a child has not only given him more of a sense of his heritage, but has also "brought Louise and I closer together. We focus more on nurturing and helping one another."

Now 7 months old, Sarah is "very outgoing, very athletic, inquisitive and bright," reports her doting dad. "She looks like a Gerber baby with her blond hair and blue eyes."

Louise, who is half-Swedish, characterizes her daughter as even-tempered, happy, and very determined. "She has a sweet and fiery personality—my mother calls her Hungarian Paprika."

The happy family lives on Army Street.



Parents Jeff and Julia Whitt waited 11 years after the birth of Jeremy, right, before welcoming baby Jenner Bartell to the clan. PHOTO BY CHARLES KENNARD

Jenner Bartell Whitt

"Oh, you can't have him *there!*" protested the nurse. But Julia Whitt knew that her child was eager to be born, and at 10:41 a.m. Sept. 19, 1988, on the floor between the labor and delivery rooms at Kaiser Hospital, Jenner Bartell Whitt made his grand entrance, weighing 6 pounds, 12 ounces.

Now safely at home with his mom, his dad Jeff, and his 11-year-old brother Jeremy, Jenner has proven himself to be "real easy-going and good-natured," says Julia, "with a ready smile and two little teeth."

Those teeth will come in handy, because unlike his big brother (who wasn't interested in food until he was a year old), Jenner loves "to eat, eat, eat, as well as breastfeed," says his dad. His favorite food? Strained carrots, believe it or not.

The Whitts, both preschool teachers who have been married for 20 years, purposely spaced their children far apart. "For one thing, we wanted to avoid sibling jealousy issues," says Jeff, "and then we both settled into our careers."

But as they entered their 40s—he's 44 and she's 41—and after some enthusias-

tic prodding by Jeremy, they decided to go for child number two.

Things worked out well. Jeremy now provides an extra pair of helping hands, and Jenner "really lights up at the sight of his brother," says Julia.

The Whitts, who have home-schooled Jeremy from the start, are adept at juggling work schedules and taking turns as breadwinners. Two months ago, Jeff took on the role of full-time house-husband and educator. Julia continues to run the afterschool kindergarten program at Theresa S. Mahler Children's Center in Edison School on Church Street.

Eleven years is a big gap between babies, and thus "a lot of it seems new to me," says Julia, "like remembering to take everything with us that goes with the baby, whenever we go out."

"But in other ways, it's easy, sort of a déjà vu." □



Baby Sarah Louise, dubbed the "Hungarian Paprika," has brought spice to the lives of Louise Allrich and Louis de Tuboly. PHOTO BY CHARLES KENNARD

MORE MOUTHS TO FEED wants to show off your newest family member. If you have a new baby in residence, please send your announcement to the *Noe Valley Voice*, More Mouths, 1021 Sanchez St., S.F. 94114. Also include your phone number, so we can contact you to arrange for the family portrait.



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Branch librarians Roberta Greifer and Dehby Jeffery are pleased to report that coats are no longer required at the Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey St. A new furnace was installed in late February, and the branch was able to reinstate its Wednesday evening hours March 15.

Greifer and Jeffery invite the neighborhood not only to stop by during the usual times—10 a.m. to noon and 1 to 6 p.m. on Tuesdays, 1 to 9 p.m. on Wednesdays, and 1 to 6 p.m. Thursday through Saturday—but to make a special trip on Saturday afternoon, April 22, for the Noe Valley History Day Celebration (see story, page 1).

Here are some further enticements; the library's latest selection of new books.

Adult Non-Fiction

Danger and Survival by McGeorge Bundy covers the history of the atomic bomb from its discovery to the present, including the role it has played in U.S. foreign policy.

Enhancing Lamaze Technique is Janice Novak's handbook on the Lamaze method of childbirth preparation, with exercises for before, during, and after pregnancy.

Paula Wolfert's World of Food contains the author's personal collection of Mediterranean recipes, specializing in dishes from Sicily and Morocco.

Solitude: A Return to the Self, by Anthony Storr, is a psychological probe into the nature and functions of solitude and its role in the creative process.

This is Greens and Mistletoe is James Wilton's compendium of facts, recipes, and stories about Northern California's edible and poisonous plants.



MORE Books to Read

The UFO Phenomenon, the latest in Time-Life's "Mysteries of the Unknown" series, includes essays and photographs on this controversial subject.

Adult Fiction

The Edge, the latest thriller by prolific writer Dick Francis, involves a horse-racing junket and an undercover agent masquerading as a waiter.

Set partly at a plastic surgery clinic, *Faces* by Shirley Lord dramatically evokes a high-fashion world of sex, betrayal, and intrigue.

Father and Son by Peter Maas tells the story of Michael McGuire, a New York executive who becomes involved with the IRA through his son.

Latecomers by Anita Brookner explores the friendship between Hartmann and Fibich, two men brought out of Nazi Germany as children.

Author Peter Dexter combines tragedy, bigotry, and murder in *Paris Trout*, his award-winning character study of a small Southern town and its chief villain.

In *The Whiteness of Bones* by Susanna Moore, Mamie Clarke attempts to reconcile her Polynesian upbringing with the allure and danger of Manhattan society.

Utz, by the late Bruce Chatwin, is the story of Kaspar Utz, a Czech porcelain collector who, like his porcelain, is a survivor.

Children's Fiction

A House for Hermit Crab is a new title by Eric Carle that preschoolers will enjoy.

In *Eat Up, Gemma*, baby Gemma refuses her breakfast until her brother gets an idea. For ages 2-4 by Sarah Hayes.

Almost Starring Snoopy by Barbara Park will amuse older readers with its tale of a boy and cat who are supposed to make a commercial as the winners of a cat food contest.

Karate Kancer tells the story of Troy and his passion for martial arts. By Doris Buchanan Smith for older readers.

Children's Non-Fiction

Zebra by Caroline Arnold brings this animal to life with fascinating facts and beautiful color photos.

Babies! by Dorothy Hinshaw Patent describes the development that babies achieve in their first two years. Color photos make this book accessible to younger children.

Juap Agam! More Adventures of Brer Rabbit by Joel Chandler Harris presents these classic stories with new color illustrations. It's the perfect read-aloud for ages 5 and older.

Visit a baseball camp in Henry Horenstein's *Spring Training*, and learn what a team does in preparation for the baseball season.

Joa Henson: From Puppets to Muppets by Geraldine Woods will delight fans 8 and older.

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